(b) The Railway is alive to the problems and is constantly adding more booking windows as per feasibility. In past four years 27 PRS counters have been added at existing as well as at three new locations in Delhi area. The work for adding more PRS counters at four new locations is underway. To apprehend the touts/unauthorized travel agents, special teams are formed to conduct surprise checks. As a result of these checks, during April 2000 to March 2001, 243 touts and during April 2001 to June 2001, 101 touts were apprehended and prosecuted under the provision of Railway Act, 1989.

Conversion of Rail Line between Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Rewari

763. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to non-conversion of second line between Delhi Sarai Rohilla and Rewari into broad gauge, considerable difficulties are being faced by commuters to reach their destinations in time, as trains are generally running late;

(b) whether Government propose to convert this line into broad gauge in the near future;

(c) if so, the details of plans made in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor, alongwith the steps to ensure punctuality in running passenger trains on this section, specially during peak hours?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The work of gauge conversion of this line has already been taken up and is being dovetailed with the gauge conversion of connected network in the area.

(d) Does not arise.

Disposal of scrap by the Railways

764. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are many loopholes in the disposal of scrap by the Railways, which are dominated by mafia;

(b) whether in many places the practice of selling usable items at scrap rates and even new items purchased by the Railways are being sold as scrap; and

(c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps are being taken by Government to make the system fool-proof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Extension of Rail Line in Kumarghat-Agartala sector

765. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on extension of rail line in Tripura in Kumarghat-Agartala sector, particularly of tunnels is proceeding as per schedule;

(b) whether sufficient budgetary provision has been made so that the work is not delayed;

(c) whether sanction has been accorded for further extension of the rail line from Agartala to Sabroom; and

(d) whether there is a proposal to convert the meter-gauge lines between Lumding and Kumarghat into broad guage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Work of Kumarghat-Agartala project is progressing as per availability of resources. The Geo-Technical investigations for tunnels have been taken up.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir. However, Gauge conversion between Badarpur to Baraigram has been decided to be done as a material modification to the work of gauge conversion of Lumding-Silchar. Survey for gauge conversion from Baraigram